



TWENTY-SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HEALTH OF STAFFORD.

F. MILNES BLUMER,

B.A. Dunelm, M.B. & C.M. Edin.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Stafford,

14th April, 1896.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my report
on the health of Stafford for the year 1895.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. MILNES BLUMER.

REPORT.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics, together with Remarks on the Mortality SECTION I.
during the year.

Area.—The Borough of Stafford contains an area of Area.
1,084 acres.

Population.—Estimated to the middle of the year 1895, Population,
the population, including the Public Institutions, was 21,136,
and was distributed as follows :—

Stafford Borough	...	...	19,415
County Asylum	...	...	988
Workhouse	...	...	311
H.M. Prison	...	...	422
Total in the Institutions	...	...	1,721
Total	...	...	<u>21,136*</u>

The population gives an average density of 19·5
persons per acre.

*The **Corrected Rates** are reckoned upon a population of 19,746 obtained
by deducting 1,390 from the total. that being the proportion of those in the
Institutions who do not belong to the Borough.

Births.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 600, of which 317 were males and 283 females. This is equal to an annual rate of 30·38 per 1000.

TABLE SHEWING NUMBER OF BIRTHS FROM 1885 TO 1895.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1885	343	309	652
1886	349	322	671
1887	330	338	668
1888	299	291	590
1889	311	281	592
1890	286	282	568
1891	334	264	598
1892	281	314	595
1893	290	286	576
1894	314	329	643
<i>Yearly Average 1885-94</i>	313·7	301·6	615·3
1895	317	283	600

Deaths.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths registered during the year was 498. This includes 258 males and 240 females, and gives a death-rate of 23·58 per 1000. Of this number of deaths, however, 165 were those of persons who did not belong to the Borough previous to their admission into one or other of the Public Institutions. This reduces the number of Deaths for the Borough to 333, and gives a

Death-rate.

Corrected death rate of 16·86 per 1000

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM
1885 TO 1895,

Year.	Males.	Females	Total.	Non-Residents.	Residents.	Corrected Rate per 1000
1885	274	213	487	130	357	
1886	258	208	466	131	335	17·71
1887	224	167	391	121	270	13·68
1888	252	182	434	110	324	16·97
1889	227	246	473	138	335	17·04
1890	223	174	397	124	273	14·13
1891	245	184	429	139	290	15·48
1892	252	199	451	131	320	16·84
1893	261	222	483	151	332	17·54
1894	225	176	401	163	238	12·48
<i>Yearly Average 1884-95</i>	244·1	197·1	441·2	133·8	307·4	<i>Average for 9 years 15·76</i>
1895	258	240	498	165	333	16·86

As will be seen from the above Table, the returns for this year are higher than the average of the previous ten years. This is to a great extent accounted for by the excessive mortality in the first quarter, when Measles, and subsequently Influenza, became epidemic. The increase in deaths appears under the following heads: Measles, Phthisis, Diseases of the Circulatory System, and Diseases of the Respiratory System:

The 333 deaths were returned in Quarters, thus:—

1st Quarter,	109	Death rate	22·08
2nd	68	„	13·77
3rd	78	„	15·8
4th	78	„	15·8
Average	83·25	Average	16·86

Quarterly Returns.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 90 deaths of infants under a year old, which is equal to a rate of 150 per 1000 registered births. In the previous year the rate was 115, and the average for the ten years 1885 to 1894 was 129. Measles caused 2 deaths, Whooping Cough 3, Diarrhœa 7, Tuberculosis 9, Premature Birth 9, Convulsions 9, Diseases of Respiratory Organs 16, Enteritis 7, Other causes 28.

TABLE SHEWING THE CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATHS IN
EACH OF THE FOUR QUARTERS.

	QUARTERS.				TOTALS.
	1	2	3	4	
I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES—					
1.—Miasmatic Diseases—					
(a) Measles	10	..	..	..	10
(b) Diphtheria .....	..	..	2	..	2
(c) Whooping Cough .....	..	1	2	2	5
(d) Influenza .....	..	1	..	..	1
2.—Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	1	7	1	10
3.—Septic Diseases—					
(a) Erysipelas .....	..	..	1	..	1
II.—DIETETIC DISEASES—					
1.—Chronic Alcoholism .....	..	..	..	1	1
III.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES—					
1.—Rheumatism .....	..	1	1	..	2
2.—Cancer and Malignant Diseases	5	4	6	1	16
3.—Tabes Mesenterica.....	..	..	2	..	2
4.—Tubercular Meningitis.....	2	..	1	1	4
5.—Phthisis	29	24	19	23	95
6.—Other Tubercular Diseases	2	1	..	1	4
7.—Purpura .....	..	1	..	..	1
8.—Diabetes Mellitus .....	..	..	..	1	1
IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES—					
1.—Premature Birth	2	2	2	4	10
2.—Atelectasis .....	..	1	..	1	2
3.—Old Age	16	10	8	3	37
V.—LOCAL DISEASES—					
1.—Diseases of the Nervous System....	28	22	12	17	79
2.— " Circulatory System ..	19	15	11	13	58
3.— " Respiratory System	23	16	12	20	71
4.— " Digestive System ..	8	6	7	10	31
5.— " Glandular and Lym- phatic System	..	..	..	2	2
6.— " Urinary System....	1	3	5	2	11
7.— " Reproductive System	2	2	..	..	4
8.— " Bones and Joints....	..	..	..	1	1
9.— " Integumentary System	..	1	..	..	1
VI.—VIOLENCE—					
1.—Accident or Negligence	6	2	1	6	15
2.—Homicide.....	..	..	..	1	1
3.—Suicide .....	..	..	2	..	2
4.—Judgment of death .....	..	..	1	..	1
VII.—ILL-DEFINED CAUSES—					
1.—Marasmus and Atrophy	5	2	5	4	16
2.—Mortification .....	..	1	..	..	1
Total	159	117	107	115	498

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE TEN YEARS
1885 TO 1894, AND IN THE YEAR 1895.

Diseases.	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	Average Annual Number of Deaths in the Ten Years, 1885 to 1894.	Total Deaths in 1895.
Smallpox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	6	..	1	20	..	8	..	..	2	3.7	10
Scarlet Fever .....	..	1	..	1	1	3	2	..	1	..	.9	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Group	2	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	1	..	.8	2
Whooping Cough	19	7	2	10	1	18	2	..	9	..	6.8	5
Typhoid Fever	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	8	2	1	1.6	..
Simple Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	.2	..
Total	22	15	2	14	30	21	12	8	13	3	14	17

Zymotic Death-rate (including Diarrhoea) in 1895=1.36 per thousand of the population.

Zymotic
Diseases.

I. Zymotic Diseases.

Infectious Diseases caused 17 deaths, compared with 3 in the previous year, and 14 the yearly average during the previous decennium. Measles caused 10, Diphtheria 2, and Whooping Cough 5. There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever.

Diarrhœa caused 10 deaths, all of them being children under five years of age. In the previous year there were only 3 such deaths.

III. Constitutional Diseases.

Phthisis.

Phthisis.—There is a marked increase in these returns as compared with the four preceding years. The total deaths are 95, and the **corrected** number 43, giving a mortality rate of 2·17 per 1000.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000
1886	46	2·43
1887	37	1·87
1888	37	1·93
1889	35	1·83
1890	45	2·33
1891	27	1·44
1892	31	1·63
1893	26	1·37
1894	24	1·25
1895	43	2·17

Developmental
Class.

IV. Developmental Class.

There have been 49 deaths in this class, as against 58 in the previous year, 10 being ascribed to Premature Birth, 37 to Old Age, and 2 to Atelectasis.

V. Local Diseases.

Local Diseases.

There were 258 deaths in this class, compared with 222 in the previous year. Diseases of the Nervous System caused 79, Diseases of the Circulatory System 58, Diseases of the Respiratory System 71, Diseases of the Digestive System 31, Diseases of the Urinary System 11, and other Diseases 8.

SECTION II.

SECTION II.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—There were 95 cases notified, compared with 47 in the previous year, and 236 in 1893. Smallpox was entirely absent during the year.

	Notified.	Isolated.	Percentage Isolated.
Scarlet Fever ...	70	65*	93
Diphtheria	4	1	12·5
Typhoid Fever...	8	1	25
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...
Erysipelas	10	...	...

*Borough Isolation Hospital 61, Kingston Hill Hospital 2, Workhouse 2.

Scarlet Fever.—At the end of 1894 the town was free from any known cases of Scarlet Fever. In the early part of 1895 a few cases occurred, up to the end of July only 13 cases being notified. In July itself no cases were reported, but in August there were 14, September 12, October 12, November 6, and December 13. Altogether 70 cases were notified and 49 houses were infected, 2 houses alone furnishing 10 cases. As will be seen from the above table, only five cases were treated at home. The rapid increase of cases in August points, I think, to the schools being the means of transmitting the infection, some mild and undetected cases returning to school after the holidays and thus communicating the disease to others. Two deaths occurred in the Hospital, which gives a case mortality of 3 per cent.

Diphtheria.—After almost an entire absence of this disease for four years, four cases occurred last year, two of which proved fatal. An examination of the premises, where the first case appeared, showed the house to be so damp that a fungous growth kept springing up from the cellar walls, and also through the skirting boards in the room above. This arose from a faulty drain connection, which allowed soakage into the house and its foundations, and in dry weather permitted free escape of sewer gas just below the sitting room window on the ground floor. I found this arrangement

obtained in all the property in that road except two houses, and the owners were made to remedy the defects. The other three cases occurred in two houses, but an examination of the property revealed nothing to which the outbreak could be attributed.

**Typhoid
Fever.**

Typhoid Fever.—There was no connection traceable between the several cases of this disease reported, except in one instance, when Mrs. D——, Marston Road, contracted it through nursing her daughter. Eight cases were notified, as against nine in the previous year; and no deaths occurred. One of the cases was contracted in London, and in another instance the diagnosis was doubtful.

Measles.

Measles.—This disease, which was epidemic during the last quarter of the previous year, became aggravated in the first quarter of last year, and caused 10 deaths, all occurring in the first two months. It suddenly subsided on Influenza breaking out at the end of February. In the year 1892 a severe epidemic of Measles was similarly arrested with the same remarkable suddenness with which Influenza appeared, pointing, in my opinion, to a direct antagonism of the two diseases.

Water Supply.

Water Supply.—This is now in a highly satisfactory condition. During the long drought in the summer months the supply was ample: and the water is now laid on practically to every property in the Borough.

**Sanitary
Legislation.**

Sanitary Legislation.—Of the many Bills bearing upon Public Health which were introduced and read a first time only one, the Factory and Workshop Act, was added to the Statute Book last year. It enacts that every person who is in occupation of a workshop shall send a written notice thereof to H.M. Inspector of Factories, and that every notice so served shall be forthwith forwarded to the Sanitary Authority of the District in which the workshop is situate. The Sanitary Authority is required by the Act to inform the Inspector as to the proceedings taken by them in consequence of any notice given by him, under sect. 4 of the 1878 Act, of the Contravention of the Public Health Act in a factory or workshop; and, in default of them taking action within one month, the Inspector can take proceedings himself, and recover from the Sanitary Authority all expenses incurred. The minimum cubic space required for each worker is now definitely fixed at 250 feet; and a notice must be posted up

in each room of the workshop or factory specifying the number of persons who may be employed. The remaining provisions of the Act have to be carried out by the Inspector of Factories.

Common Lodging Houses.—These have been regularly visited by the Inspector, and their condition has generally been reported as satisfactory. The accommodation afforded by them was taxed to the uttermost in the first half of the year owing to the great influx of men engaged in laying the sewers. The crowding was relieved by the opening of large premises in South Back Walls, which had been fitted up to accommodate 59 lodgers, and which have proved to be of great benefit to the class of people who resort to these houses. Common Lodging houses

Bye-Laws.—Sanctioned so long ago as 1874, that is prior to the passing of the Public Health Act, 1875, the Borough Bye-Laws are far behind the requirements of the legislation of recent years. The Local Government Board have drawn up a series of model bye-laws for the guidance of Sanitary Authorities ; and I would recommend that our Bye-Laws be revised on the lines suggested by the Local Government Board. Bye-Laws.

Isolation Hospital.—The number of cases treated during the year was 63, viz., Scarlet Fever 61, Diphtheria 1, Typhoid Fever 1. There were 2 deaths from Scarlet Fever. In the previous year 11 cases were treated, and in 1893 the number was 130. It will be noticed that although 8 cases of Typhoid Fever were notified only 1 was isolated. This is owing to the fact that the temporary hospital has not the means of sufficiently isolating more than one kind of fever at once, as all the rooms open into a common hall. It is, however, highly desirable that both Typhoid and Diphtheria cases should be removed when they appear in small houses, and accommodation should be provided for their reception. Isolation Hospital.

Vaccination Statistics.—The subjoined figures apply to the whole of the Stafford Union, but they serve as an index of how the provisions of the Vaccination Act are being carried out : Vaccination Statistics.

Number of Births in 1894	...	886
Successfully Vaccinated	...	752
Insusceptible	... ..	1
Had Smallpox	... ..	0
Died unvaccinated	... ..	76
Postponed	... ..	19
Removed to places unknown	...	34
Not accounted for (been summoned)		4

Work in the
Sanitary
Department.

Work in the Sanitary Department.—Appended hereto is a Table giving a summary of the work done during the year in the Sanitary Inspector's Department. The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Cow-sheds, Dairies, and Milk-shops, have been regularly visited, and a great number of visits have been paid in respect of nuisances of various kinds. All the houses infected with Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria have been disinfected, and 126 lots of bedding and clothing have been disinfected by the Washington Lyon apparatus.

The Statistical Tables required by the Local Government Board are appended.

F. MILNES BLUMER.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE INSPECTOR OF
NUISANCES' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1895, IN THE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF STAFFORD.

					Inspections and Observa- tions.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions ..			41	3	3
		Structural Defects ..			438	11	11
		Over-crowding ..			7	7	7
		Unfit for Habitation..			5		
Lodging-houses			28				
Dairies and Milkshops			72				
Cowsheds			72				
Bakehouses			85				
Slaughter-houses			152	1	1		
Ashpits 991, Privies 346			1337				
Tub Collection 183,912							
Slop Water Closets			466	5	5		
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps ..			114	20	20
		Other Faults ..			3	3	3
Water Supply			6				
Pig Licences			112				
Animals improperly kept			17	8	8		
Smoke Nuisances			4	2	2		
Other Nuisances			43	3	3		
Dwelling houses free from Nuisances ..			518				
Totals					3520	63	63

Samples of Water taken for Analysis						Nos.
,, ,, Condemned as unfit for use						6
						5

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed				126
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease				52

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895, in the Stafford Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shewn as separate Localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																							
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Fevers.							Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Plithisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.			
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.														Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Stafford Borough	281	84	35	6	17	77	62	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	9 1	5	10	.....	35	23 30	1 16	..... 1	2 5	66 74	119 162
County Asylum	140	.....	.....	.....	3	106	31	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47	7	34	.....	1	51	.....	140
Workhouse	37	2	1	.....	3	13	18	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	1 4	..... 1	.....	1	21	.....	2 35
Infirmary	35	3	4	3	4	20	1	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1 4	1 3	.....	3 6	2 10	.....	7 28
H.M. Prison	5	1	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 1	.....	.....	.....	1 1	4
Totals	498	90	40	9	27	220	112	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	9 1	5	10	.....	95	25 46	3 55	..... 1	5 14	69 157	129 369
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																															
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	165	1	3	2	10	115	34	Under 5 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	1 9	1 37	.....	2 5	.....	4 58	161

(B) *Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Stafford Urban District ; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shewn as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													Number of such cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.			
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Fevers.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.				Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid.
								Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.								
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3
Stafford Borough	18545	19415	600	.....	.....	63	3	1	....	8	.....	.....	3	.....	5	.....	.....	58	1	1
County Asylum	982	988	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Workhouse.....	254	311	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2†	.....	.....
Infirmary	Included in Borough.		.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	5	.....	.....
H.M. Prison	498	422	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	20279	21136	600	.....	.....	70	3	1	....	8	.....	.....	3	.....	10	..	.....	65	1	1

(†) Isolated in Workhouse.

